

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 182109Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJ: MASSIVE ELECTORAL FRAUD CHARGED

1. SUMMARY. CATHOLIC UNIV RESEARCHERS CLAIM TO HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE OF LARGE-SCALE FRAUD RELATING TO MARCH 4 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THEY ARGUE THAT AS MUCH AS 8 0/0 OF VOTES WERE CAST FRAUDULENTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. CATHOLIC UNIV LAW SCHOOL DEAN, JAIME DEL VALLE (FORMER UNDERSECY OF JUSTICE IN JORGE ALESSANDRI CABINET) APPEARED ON CHANNEL 13 EVENING JULY 17 TO MAKE PUBLIC PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF STUDY OF MARCH 4 ELECTION CONDUCTED BY CU RESEARCHERS. DEL VALLE CLAIMED STUDY UNCOVERED EVIDENCE OF LARGE-SCALE FRAUD CONSISTING OF FALSE VOTER REGISTRATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT MULTIPLE VOTING.

3. DEL VALLE ARGUED THAT FRAUD ACCOUNTS FOR FACT THAT STEADY UP DETERIORATION OBSERVED IN POST-APRIL 1971 BUT ELECTIONS NOT REFLECTED IN MARCH VOTE. HE ALSO STATED THAT RESEARCHERS' ESTIMATES OF A POSSIBLE MAXIMUM OF 570,000, NEW VOTERS IN MARCH ELECTION ACTUALLY SURPASSED BY 250,000, THUS INDICATING THAT AS MUCH AS 8 0/0 OF VOTES WERE CAST FRAUDULENTLY.

4. DEL VALLE BUTTRESSED ARGUMENT BY POINTING TO FACT THAT IN OLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOTING PRECINCTS (MESAS) OPPOSITION OBTAINED 62 0/0 OF VOTE, UP

38 0/0. BUT IN NEW PRECINCTS, PRIMARILY THOSE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SEPT 1 AND NOV 3, 1972, AND CONSISTING OF NEW REGISTRANTS, OPPOSITION AND UP SPLIT VOTE EVENLY. DEL VALLE ALSO ARGUED THAT PERCENTAGE OF NEW INSCRIPTIONS HIGHEST IN THOSE PROVINCES WHERE CLOSE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN FORECAST.

5. DEAN OFFERED SEVERAL CONCRETE CASES TO BACK UP CHARGES, ESPECIALLY USE OF SAME IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS TO REGISTER DIFFERENTLY NAMED INDIVIDUALS IN MORE THAN ONE PRECINCT. HE NOTED THAT CURRENT CHILEAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM BASED ON "GOOD FAITH" AND THEREFORE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICANT NEED NOT PRESENT IDENTITY CARD NOR OTHER IDENTIFICATION. THIS, HE ARGUED, "ALLOWED A MULTITUDE OF CITIZENS TO REGISTER AND VOTE TWO OR MORE TIMES."

6 DEL VALLE CLAIMED "THE CENTRAL AXIS OF DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN BROKEN. "HE QUOTED ALLEGED POST-ELECTION DAY STATEMENT OF THEN MININT CARLOS PRATS TO EFFECT THAT "CHILEAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM CANNOT WITHSTAND ANOTHER ELECTION" AND DEMANDED PROMPT REFORM ACTION TO PREVENT SYSTEM FROM BECOMING "MONSTRUOUS MACHINE TO ALTER GENUINE EXPRESSION OF THE MAJORITY."

7. COMMENT: STORY IS FRONT-PAGED IN ALL OPPOSITION PAPERS TODAY. EMBASSY HAS HAD REPORTS OR RESEARCH INTO FRAUD POSSIBILITY FROM VARIOUS RELIABLE OPPOSITION SOURCES FOR TWO MONTHS, BUT THIS IS FIRST TIME CONCLUSIONS HAVE SURFACED. FULL ANALYSIS BY AIRGRAM.

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